

CLAIMS

1. A method of fabricating a cargo carrier for a motor vehicle comprising the steps of:
 - co-forming a composite sheet having a first layer of a first thermoplastic material and a second layer of a second thermoplastic material distinct from said first thermoplastic material;
 - abrading one surface of said composite sheet; and
 - thermoforming said composite sheet into a cargo carrier having said abraded surface corresponding to a cargo receiving region of said cargo carrier.
2. The method of fabricating a cargo carrier of Claim 1 wherein said co-forming is accomplished by co-extruding.
3. The method of fabricating a cargo carrier of Claim 1 wherein said first layer is an upper layer selected from the group consisting of linear low density polyethylene and polyolefin.
4. The method of fabricating a cargo carrier of Claim 1 wherein said second layer is a lower layer of high density polyethylene.
5. The method of fabricating a cargo carrier of Claim 1 wherein said abrading is achieved by a rotating brush engaging one surface of said composite sheet.
6. The method of fabricating a cargo carrier of Claim 1 wherein said abrading is undertaken only to a portion of said composite sheet.
7. The method of fabricating a cargo carrier of Claim 1 wherein said first and second layers are bonded together without an adhesive.

8. An apparatus for fabricating a cargo receiving structure for a motor vehicle comprising, in combination,
a first extruding machine having a first output,
an extruding nozzle for receiving said output from said extruding machine and forming a continuous sheet,
a brush for scuffing one surface of said two layer sheet,
means for rotating said brush,
a plurality of rollers disposed underneath said sheet and beneath said brush, and
a plurality of bi-directional translators for moving said rollers toward and away from said brush.
9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said brush rotates between 3000 and 6000 r.p.m.
10. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said brush rotates in a direction of travel opposite to that of said two layer sheet.
11. The apparatus of claim 8 further including means for raising and lowering said brush above said one surface of said two layer sheet.
12. The apparatus of claim 8 further including means for thermoforming said two layer sheet into a liner.
13. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said plurality of rollers comprehends eight rollers and wherein outer pairs of said rollers conform generally to the sidewalls of a finished product and four inner said rollers conform generally to the bottom panel of said liner.
14. The apparatus of claim 8 further including a second extruding machine having a second output and wherein said extruding nozzle receives said first and second outputs and forms a two layer sheet.

15. The apparatus of claim 8 further including a cooling station disposed between said extruding nozzle and said brush.

16. A cargo carrier for a motor vehicle comprising, in combination, a co-formed composite sheet having a first layer of a first thermoplastic material and a second layer of a second thermoplastic material bonded to said first layer, said composite sheet formed to define a pair of opposed, spaced apart sidewalls, a front wall extending between and merging with said sidewalls, a bottom panel extending between and merging with said sidewalls and said front wall and a pair of wheel well features disposed generally between said bottom panel and a respective one of said pair of sidewalls; and

a roughened, friction enhancing surface residing on at least a surface of said bottom panel.

17. The cargo carrier of Claim 16 wherein said composite sheet is co-extruded.

18. The cargo carrier of Claim 16 wherein said first layer is an upper layer selected from the group consisting of linear low density polyethylene and polyolefin.

19. The cargo carrier of Claim 16 wherein said second layer is a lower layer of high density polyethylene.

20. The cargo carrier of Claim 16 wherein said roughened, friction enhancing surface is achieved by a rotary brush.

21. The cargo carrier of Claim 16 wherein said first and second layers are bonded together without an adhesive.